



**UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
REGION 5
77 WEST JACKSON BOULEVARD
CHICAGO, ILLINOIS 60604**

SUBJECT: CLEAN AIR ACT INSPECTION REPORT
Thiesing Veneer, Mooresville, Indiana

FROM: Jacob Herbers, Environmental Engineer
AECAB (MI/WI)

THRU: Sarah Marshall, Section Supervisor
AECAB (MI/WI)

TO: File

BASIC INFORMATION

Facility Name: Thiesing Veneer

Facility Location: 300 S Park Dr Mooresville, Indiana 46158

Date of Inspection: 10/13/2022

EPA Inspector(s):

1. Jacob Herbers, Environmental Engineer
2. Daniel Schaufelberger, Environmental Scientist

Other Attendees:

1. Vaughn Ison, Air Compliance Inspector, Indiana Department of Environmental Management (IDEM)
2. Robert Mathers, President, Thiesing Veneer

Contact Email Address: RMathers@thiesingveneer.com

Purpose of Inspection: Investigate for compliance with the facility's Clean Air Act (CAA) Minor Source Operating Permit (MSOP)

Facility Type: Wood veneer production facility

Regulations Central to Inspection: National Emission Standards for Hazardous Air Pollutants (NESHAP) for Industrial, Commercial, and Institutional Boilers Area Sources [40 CFR Part 63, Subpart JJJJJJ]

Arrival Time: 8:45 EDT

Departure Time: 10:10 EDT

Inspection Type:

- ☒ Unannounced Inspection
- ☐ Announced Inspection

OPENING CONFERENCE

- ☒ Presented Credentials
- ☒ Stated authority and purpose of inspection
- ☒ Provided Small Business Resource Information Sheet
- ☒ Provided CBI warning to facility

The following information was obtained verbally from Robert Mathers unless otherwise noted.

Process Description:

Supplier trucks drop off wooden logs in piles outside, where they are sprayed with water sprinklers. Pieces of the logs are then soaked in vats of 185-205 °F water to soften the fibers, and there were ceiling exhaust fans above the vats. After being cut, wood veneer pieces are put through a dryer. The vats and dryer are heated by a large wood-fired boiler, with a Breslev fly ash collector with fan inducement, and a Hays Cleveland Series 8700 opacity monitor on its exhaust, with cyclones at the top. Throughout the woodworking processes, several sawmills and slicers operate and exhaust through cyclones. There is also a gas heater onsite, and a wood-fired stove which only operates in the winter and does not have emission controls. The process ends with a steam flattening press and storage of the finished product.

Staff Interview:

Facility staff said that the opacity of the main stack plume (normal/abnormal) is recorded at 7 am daily, and the boiler, including the fly ash collector, is inspected weekly. They empty the fly ash collector settling chamber twice a year. The amount of fuel entering the boiler is supposed to be decreased if the opacity monitored ever exceeds 20%. The opacity monitor was installed approximately four years ago, and its lens is cleaned daily. Staff stated that boiler startup involves starting a “campfire”, then bringing it up slowly to the desired firing rate. For shutdown, the fly ash collector is left running for a while after shutting off combustion. Staff were unsure if a stack test had ever been conducted on the boiler. Thiesing Veneer was unable to say that they did anything to show compliance with particulate matter (PM) emissions limitations on their equipment. Staff stated that the wood stove only runs during the winter.

TOUR INFORMATION

EPA Tour of the Facility: Yes

Data Collected and Observations:

EPA inspectors observed that the opacity monitor was reading 0%, while there were visible emissions coming from the boiler stack. Field opacity readings were not taken, however the opacity of the plume always appeared to be around 20%. The IDEM inspector noted that he had observed black smoke

coming from the stack on a previous occasion. EPA noticed that the wood stove exhaust lacked emissions controls. Significant airborne fly ash was observed outside next to the boiler and fly ash collector.

Photos and/or Videos: were not taken during the inspection.

Field Measurements: were not taken during this inspection.

RECORDS REVIEW

EPA inspectors reviewed the facility's most recent boiler tune-up report from 2/18/21, which was written by a contractor, CSI. CSI noted that they were unable to inspect the boiler's burner because it was operating, and that Thiesing Veneer said they will inspect it themselves during their yearly shutdown, which there was no record of. The maximum CO concentration recorded was 4815 ppm at 4.15% O₂ and a 100% firing rate, and after adjustments the maximum was 1502 ppm. Reducing the fuel delivery ratio from 60% to 55% "drastically improved CO concentrations" across the entire range of firing rate.

EPA inspectors reviewed the facility's records of weekly boiler maintenance and daily opacity readings from 2021 and 2022. There were a few entries for each missing in 2022, when staff stated the facility was likely operational. Thiesing Veneer was unable to provide their most recent annual compliance certification, and didn't have logs of emissions from the woodworking machines.

CLOSING CONFERENCE

☒ Provided U.S. EPA point of contact to the facility

Requested documents:

- TBD

Compliance Assistance:

The EPA and IDEM inspectors reminded facility staff about all the recordkeeping required by their permit and NESHAP JJJJJ.

Concerns:

EPA noted concerns about some of the records Thiesing Veneer was unable to locate. EPA also pointed out the inaccurate opacity monitor reading.

DIGITAL SIGNATURES

Report Author: _____

Section Supervisor: _____